WEBLESS MIGRATORY BIRDS –

Mourning Doves, Sandhill Cranes & Common Snipe

2002 MONTANA HUNTING REGULATIONS

These regulations and final quotas are adopted under the authority granted to the commission in Section 87-1-301, MCA and are valid March 1, 2002 through February 28, 2003. These regulations were adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on August 8, 2002. Jeff Hagener, FWP Director.

MONTANA WEBLESS MIGRATORY BIRD LICENSING REQUIREMENTS
(Mourning Doves, Sandhill Cranes and Common Snipe)

Resident/Nonresident	Age	License Required
Resident	12 to 15	Conservation Only
Resident	16 to 61	Conservation & MT Migratory Bird License
Resident	62+ or FWP Certified Disabled	Conservation Only
Nonresident	12 to 15	Conservation Only
Nonresident	16+	Conservation & MT Migratory Bird License

Hunters must carry required license(s) on their person. Webless migratory bird hunters do not need a federal waterfowl stamp.

Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (MBHIP) – All migratory bird hunters in Montana, as well as in all other states, are required to take part in a National Harvest Survey Program, termed the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (MBHIP). To comply with MBHIP, you must fill out a survey form with your name, address and date of birth before you can purchase your Montana Migratory Bird License. In addition, you will be asked to respond to several questions about your hunting experience during last year's season. The survey information will be captured by the FWP License Provider if you purchase your license in person. If you apply for your license through the mail, a survey form will be included with the application. Thank you for your cooperation.

General Regulations

Means of Taking – Migratory birds may be taken only with long, recurve or compound bow and arrow or shotgun not larger than ten gauge incapable of holding more than three shells fired from the shoulder. May not be taken from or by means, or aid of, or use of a sinkbox, aircraft, motor vehicle, or motor-driven conveyance of any kind, except a motorboat when the motor has been shut off and the boat has stopped. Use of any electronic or phonographic waterfowl-calling device is illegal, as are live decoys.

Possession of Live Birds – Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

Restrictions – No person shall take migratory birds by driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in range of the hunter; by the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement). Hunter should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation.

Shipment – No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (c) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

Shooting Hours – Authorized shooting hours begin one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day of the hunting season.

Tagging – No person shall give, put or leave any migratory birds at any place or in custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information: 1) the hunter's signature; 2) the hunter's address; 3) the total number of birds involved, by species; 4) the dates such birds were killed. Tagging is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment or taxidermy services.

Wanton Waste - No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird under these regulations without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) migratory game bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

Leave Wing Attached - One fully feathered wing or head must remain attached to each bird (except doves) at all times while being transported from the place where taken to the personal abode of the processor or processing facility.

Property and Trespass Laws - Montana Law requires that hunters **must** have permission of the landowner, lessee or their agent before hunting on private property. Under the Montana Stream Access Law, the public may use rivers and streams for certain recreational purposes up to the ordinary high-water marks. Recreationists are urged to refer to the complete rules which can be obtained from any Fish, Wildlife & Parks office.

Non-Toxic Shot (NTS) - NTS is not required for webless migratory birds. However, it is unlawful for anyone to use or possess a shotgun shell or ammunition loaded with or containing other than federally approved non-toxic shot while hunting, taking or attempting to take ducks, geese, swans or coots.

MOURNING DOVES

Statewide Season Dates: September 1 – October 30, 2002

Bag Limit: 15 daily and 30 in possession.

It is illegal to shoot mourning doves resting on utility lines or fixtures adjacent to those lines.

COMMON SNIPE

Statewide Season Dates: September 1 – December 16, 2002

Bag Limit: 8 daily and 16 in possession

SANDHILL CRANES

Pacific Flyway

Season Dates: September 7 – 8 and September 14 – 15, 2002

Limited Permit: Hunting in specified portions of Madison and Beaverhead County or Deer Lodge County or Powell County by special limited permit only. Hunters must apply in writing to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, POB 200701, Helena MT 59620, ATTN: Special Licensing by August 1. Applicants must submit in writing their name, signature, address, Automated Licensing System (ALS) number and a $3 nonrefundable drawing fee. The tentative quotas are 50 permits for Dillon-Twin Bridges Area, 25 permits for Warm Springs Area and 35 permits for the Ovando-Helmville Area. Applicants may apply for only one area and must specify the hunting area for which they are applying.

Bag and Possession Limit: 1 sandhill crane

Central Flyway

Season Dates: September 28 – November 24, 2002

Persons wishing to hunt sandhill cranes must obtain a free permit from the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge; Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge; Fish, Wildlife & Parks regional headquarters in Glasgow, Billings, Miles City and the Helena Headquarters.

Bag Limit: 3 daily and 6 in possession

Exception: That area south and west of Interstate 90 is closed to the hunting of sandhill cranes.

Limited Permit: Wheatland and that part of Sweetgrass County north of I-90

Season Dates: September 7 – September 15, 2002

Hunting in specified portions of Wheatland and Sweetgrass County is by special limited permit only. Hunters must apply in writing to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, POB 200701, Helena MT 59620, ATTN: Special Licensing by August 1. Applicants must submit in writing their name, signature, address, Automated Licensing System (ALS) number and a $3 nonrefundable drawing fee. The tentative quota is 50 permits. Applicants may apply for only one area.

Bag and Possession Limit: 1 crane

Turn In Poachers
1-800-TIP-MONT or
1-800-847-6668

SUNRISE-SUNSET TABLES FOR DETERMINING HUNTING HOURS

These tables, including adjustments for daylight savings time, are the official sunrise-sunset tables adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission for hunting in Montana. **(Do not utilize from other sources).**

Zone 1 - Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders Counties.

Zone 2 - Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole Counties.

Zone 3 - Blaine, Bighorn, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone Counties.

Zone 4 - Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Treasure, Wibaux and Valley Counties.

	Zone 1		Zone 2		Zone 3		Zone 4	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
September								
1-3	6:57	8:13	6:45	8:03	6:38	7:55	6:25	7:40
4-6	7:01	8:08	6:49	7:57	6:42	7:50	6:29	7:35
7-9	7:05	8:02	6:53	7:51	6:46	7:44	6:32	7:29
10-12	7:09	7:56	6:57	7:45	6:50	7:38	6:36	7:23
13-15	7:12	7:50	7:01	7:39	6:54	7:32	6:40	7:17
16-18	7:16	7:44	7:05	7:33	6:58	7:26	6:44	7:11
19-21	7:20	7:38	7:09	7:27	7:02	7:19	6:48	7:05
22-24	7:24	7:32	7:13	7:21	7:06	7:13	6:52	6:59
25-27	7:28	7:26	7:17	7:15	7:10	7:07	6:55	6:53
28-30	7:32	7:20	7:21	7:09	7:14	7:01	6:59	6:47
October								
1-3	7:35	7:16	7:25	7:03	7:18	6:55	7:03	6:41
4-6	7:40	7:08	7:30	6:57	7:22	6:49	7:07	6:36
7-9	7:44	7:02	7:34	6:51	7:26	6:44	7:11	6:30
10-12	7:48	6:56	7:38	6:45	7:30	6:38	7:15	6:24
13-15	7:53	6:51	7:42	6:39	7:34	6:32	7:19	6:19
16-18	7:57	6:45	7:47	6:33	7:39	6:27	7:23	6:13
19-21	8:01	6:40	7:51	6:28	7:43	6:21	7:28	6:08
22-24	8:05	6:35	7:56	6:23	7:47	6:16	7:32	6:03
25-26	8:10	6:30	8:00	6:18	7:52	6:11	7:36	5:58
27-28	7:11	5:28	7:03	5:14	6:55	5:08	6:39	4:55
29-31	7:15	5:23	7:06	5:11	6:58	5:05	6:42	4:52
November								
1-3	7:20	5:19	7:10	5:06	7:02	5:00	6:46	4:47
4-6	7:24	5:14	7:15	5:02	7:07	4:56	6:51	4:43
7-9	7:29	5:10	7:20	4:58	7:11	4:51	6:55	4:39
10-12	7:33	5:06	7:24	4:54	7:15	4:48	6:59	4:35
13-15	7:38	5:03	7:29	4:50	7:20	4:44	7:04	4:32
16-18	7:42	5:00	7:33	4:47	7:24	4:41	7:08	4:28
19-21	7:46	4:57	7:37	4:44	7:28	5:38	7:12	4:26
22-24	7:50	4:54	7:42	4:41	7:33	4:35	7:16	4:23
25-27	7:54	4:52	7:46	4:39	7:40	4:33	7:20	4:21
28-30	7:58	4:50	7:50	4:37	7:41	4:31	7:24	4:19
December								
1-3	8:02	4:49	7:53	4:36	7:44	4:30	7:27	4:18
4-6	8:05	4:48	7:57	4:35	7:48	4:29	7:31	4:17
7-9	8:08	4:47	8:00	4:34	7:51	4:28	7:34	4:17
10-12	8:11	4:47	8:03	4:34	7:54	4:28	7:37	4:16
13-15	8:14	4:48	8:05	4:34	7:56	4:29	7:39	4:17
16-18	8:16	4:48	8:08	4:35	7:58	4:29	7:42	4:18
19-21	8:18	4:50	8:10	4:36	8:00	4:30	7:43	4:19
22-24	8:19	4:51	8:11	4:38	8:02	4:32	7:45	4:20
25-27	8:20	4:53	8:12	4:40	8:03	4:34	7:46	4:22
28-30	8:21	4:55	8:13	4:42	8:04	4:36	7:47	4:24
31	8:21	4:57	8:13	4:44	8:04	4:38	7:47	4:26

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620
406-444-2535
fwp.state.mt.us